

**MINUTES
OF JOINT POLICING SUB COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA
HELD ON MONDAY, 10TH April 2017 at 11.30 A.M**

1. Minutes of meeting held on 16th January, 2017
Order: Noted

2. Presentation on Mediation Services:

Order: Rose Wall gave a presentation in relation to the Community Law and Mediation Centre (CLM) Northside. CLM Northside provides free legal advice in all areas of law through its free legal advice clinics. No formal means test is applied, though the service is described for clients who cannot afford a private solicitor. It also provides legal representation and advocacy, including Court and Tribunal Representation, in areas of law not covered by the State funded civil legal aid scheme i.e. Social Welfare, Debt, Housing, Community Care, Employment and Equality Law. This service is open to individuals living in the catchment area of Dublin Bay North. They also run a number of outreach clinics in Blanchardstown, Clondalkin and the City Centre.

Donal Waddell (Mediator) answered a number of questions from the JPC Committee regarding funding and Social Welfare advice clinic.

3. Divisional Policing Plan: **Chief Superintendent Finbarr O'Brien**
The Chief Superintendent discussed the Divisional Policing Plan,. It is split into 5 goals - 1. National and International Security, 2. Confronting Crime, 3. Roads Policing 4. Community Engagement, 5. Organisational Development and Capacity Improvement.

The Chief Superintendent then answered any questions put forth by the committee.

- **Cllr. Bourke asked is there a buy in from all ranks of the Guards? Reply: There is some resistance, gardai have to improve approach and standards, put in plan what is achievable.**
- **Cllr. Mac Donnacha, Cllr. Jones and Cllr. O'Farrell all referred to minority and ethnic groups referred to in Goal 1 National and International Security, perhaps the wording could be changed as it reflects as if they are the perpetrators of terrorism when these groups are more often victims. Reply: This was not the intention, the wording has already been agreed and plan has been circulated. The guards are looking at racist crime and there is community engagement with these groups.**
- **Cllr. O'Muiri queried is it possible to get a breakdown of garda resources. Reply: The Chief Superintendent at the next JPC meeting will outline how guards are employed in his District.**
- **Cllr. Brabazon queried the visibility policy in all neighbourhoods. Reply: The Chief Superintendent at the next JPC meeting will outline how guards are employed in his District.**
- **Cllr. Gilliland queried youth and anti-social behaviour and what have the garda in place to tackle this problem. Reply: There are Garda Youth Liaison Officers dedicated to tailor programmes with certain groups of youths. The Garda have to find a baseline between this year and next year and will know more of what areas to prioritise. It was also discussed about the programme run in Ballymun which is very successful dealing with youths released from prison and what is in place for them when they are released.**
- **Cllr. O'Farrell asked about community garda, policing and statistics and are these audited. Reply: When an incident is reported it is allocated a PULSE ref number and the person will receive this in writing, also there is a follow up call by the garda. The Chief Superintendent conducts audits every 3 months. External auditing is carried out generally to do with finance by the Department of Justice.**

- Cllr. Moran advised that some kids are terrorising communities, can talks not be given on anti-social behaviour in the schools. Reply: The community guards engage with schools and have no problem giving these talks but they have to be invited to do so by the school and some Principals aren't in favour of giving these talks.

- Cllr. O'Toole queried is every incident recorded on PULSE and there is a shortage of guards on the streets. PULSE is a challenge as it is 27 years old, all incidents are recorded on this system. When a person rings 999 it is recorded on the CAD system but may not be recorded on PULSE. There is a need to reconcile these 2 systems.

There are 5 garda in each unit so they try their best to be visible on patrol and in the cars.

4. Community Policing Presentation - Verbal Update Chief Superintendent Finbarr O'Brien
This was discussed with Item 3 Divisional Policing Plan.

5. Garda report - Chief Superintendent Finbarr O'Brien
Order: Garda discussed statistics for DMR North. Cllr Larry O'Toole and Cllr Noise O'Muiri requested the presence of more community garda and asked for resource numbers. At the next JPC meeting in July the Chief Superintendent will discuss resources and outline how guards in his district are employed. Cllr Larry O'Toole asked about illegal dumping and are the garda in a position to prosecute, The Chief Superintendent advised this is more a matter for Local Authorities. There has been a decrease in burglaries. The majority of burglaries are residential burglaries targeting cash/jewellery. Cllr Paddy Bourke asked about burglaries in relation to jewellery, the Chief advised that people should check selling and be aware of selling sites. Rose Wall had a question on Domestic Violence, the chief discussed victim engagement, firstly they are written out to and then followed up by phone call from garda.

6. Motion referred to from NCA February Area Committee
Order: Garda confirmed that there is an on-going issue with youths playing loud amplified music late at night in Father Collins Park. Superintendent Donnelly advised that the guards have a key to the park, however when they go into the park the youths scatter and it is difficult to catch them. They have seized a couple of boom-boxes. Superintendent Donnelly suggested cutting back shrubbery and improve lighting in order to reduce hiding spots. There is a request for the fence to be made higher, it was felt that this would not stop them from getting in. Cllr O'Moore and Cllr. Brabazon queried if the community guards still do cycle controls, gardai informed them that yes they are still on the bikes.

Derek Farrell discussed Edenmore Park and the youths on motorbikes. There is also a problem with bikes in Grange Woodbine. Superintendent discussed the garda won't give chase to these youths as it is too dangerous for all involved. Cllr Alison Gilliland asked about the legislative changes for bikes, Gardai advised that this topic had previously been raised, would be difficult to implement as there is nothing to stop people buying these bikes either up North or in England.

7. Item raised at NCA Area Committee 20/3/17 - Anti Social Behaviour Clongriffin Dart Station.
Order: Irish Rail are getting Net Watch CCTV and they will monitor the station. Superintendent Gerry Donnelly will find out in relation to the security guard.

8. Any Other Business and future items
Order: Chief Superintendent Finbarr O'Brien discussed the operation of drink-driving checkpoints across the State being audited after it emerged that the number of breath tests recorded on the Garda Pulse system appears significantly higher than the number of motorists tested. He discussed a number of factors which he is of the opinion attributed to these differences, 1) misinterpretation of what constitutes a test, 2) reporting mechanisms and 3) tendency of exaggeration, accumulated over a 5 year period. He will get back to the Committee regarding this.

The following future items were requested for the next JPC meeting.

- Presentation on gaming and lotteries – how garda police underage gambling?
- Garda Resourcing – Chief Superintendent will discuss resources and outline how guards in his district are employed.

Next meeting 17th July, 2017 at 11.30.

Dave Dinnigan
Area Manager

Councillor Ciaran O'Moore

Leaschathaoirleach

10th April 2017

Attendance:

Councillor Tom Brabazon, Councillor Jane Horgan Jones, Councillor Edel Moran, Councillor Damian O'Farrell, Councillor Ciaran O'Moore, Councillor Naoise O'Muirí, Councillor Larry O'Toole, Councillor Paddy Bourke, Councillor Alison Gilliland, Cllr Michael Mac Donncha, T.D Tommy Broughan.

Chief Superintendent Finbarr O'Brien
Superintendent Joe O'Connor
Superintendent Gerry Donnelly

Deirdre Tobin, Clontarf
Rose Wall Community Law and Mediation
Donal Waddell Community Law and Mediation

Dave Dinnigan, Area Manager
Elaine Mulvenny, Assistant Area Manager
Vanessa Carey, Administrative Officer
Deirdre Murphy, Administrative Officer
Derek Farrell, Area Housing Manager. Kilbarrack

Apologies:

Aidan Fitzsimons, Area Housing Manager, Darndale
Cllr Deirdre Heney
Lord Mayor, Brendan Carr